

Today's News - Thursday, November 10, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for missed posting yesterday - the technology gods were not on our side.

- Chipperfield to curate 2012 Venice Biennale.
- Moore looks at the controversy growing around Foster's proposal for a Thames Hub airport: is it essential or a potential white elephant (stomping through "a rare wilderness")?
- Speakers at the UIA congress in Tokyo reinforced Frank's "belief that 'architecture matters' in just about every place in the world except North America."
- King led a lively debate at the 2011 ASLA annual meeting: Are there any new ideas on cities? Yes and no: landscape architects have been "taking market share away from planners and urban designers" who seem to be "there to protect communities against design."
- A new study proves it doesn't take exotic measures to retrofit buildings that lead to some impressive energy savings (now lenders might start stepping up to the plate).
- Huxtable hails the return of the Empire State Building's luster: an "ambitious and expensive gamble paid off"; so, all you "jaded New Yorkers, join the international tourists - go."
- Q&A with Pawlyn re: his passion for biomimicry (and why he's in awe of camel's nostrils).
- Berg begs the question: Does anyone own the rights to shipping container designs as the Boxpark (London) vs. City Mall Re:START (Christchurch) battle brews over intellectual property rights.
- Braverman creates "a romance between east African elemental aesthetics and inventive off-the grid sustainability" in Burundi.
- Gallagher cheers the new addition to Saarinen's Cranbrook Art Museum that "the master himself would have admired."
- The saga of St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater continues (at a cost of only \$629 million).
- New Orleans approves demolition of a historic St. Charles Avenue mansion: "one would think that razing a mansion designed by a big-name architect would be nigh impossible. Alas, you would be wrong."
- Cary minces no words in a call to redesign the Intern Development Program, which "is more an exercise in arithmetic than experience" and discourages young practitioners from staying in the profession.
- Eyefuls of CTBUH 10th Annual Awards and International Student Design Competition winners (great presentations - student work is amazing!).
- The Dyson Award winner is a gadget inspired by a beetle (more biomimicry).
- Call for entries: 13th annual Residential Architect design awards.

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David Chipperfield to curate 2012 Venice Biennale: Appointment was delayed amid uncertainty over future of Biennale director...Once his appointment is made official, he will have just eight months to come up with a theme, and curate the world's largest architecture exhibition...Giulio Margara will continue as director for at least another year. By Ellis Woodman-BD/Building Design (UK)

London's new airport: should Beijing be a blueprint for the Isle of Grain? Norman Foster says a Thames estuary hub is essential for Britain's economy; critics warn of a £50bn white elephant that could harm the environment...Terry Farrell argues that what works in China may not work here...the best option is for the moment almost pure guesswork. By Rowan Moore -- Foster + Partners - Observer (UK)

World Congress of Architecture speakers explain their philosophies in Tokyo: ...the 24th World Congress of Architecture in Tokyo which reinforced my belief that "architecture matters" in just about every place in the world except North America. By Paul Frank/FRAIC Architecture Canada -- SANAA; Fumihiko Maki; Christoph Ingenhoven - Daily Commercial News (Canada)

Are There Any New Ideas on Cities? This was just one of many provocative questions asked at the 2011 ASLA annual meeting general session...the answer was yes and no...landscape architects have been "taking market share away from planners and urban designers"...does every city need a High Line?...in too many communities, "planners are there to protect communities against design." -- John King; Martha Schwartz; Laurie Olin; Maurice Cox [links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Study Clarifies the Energy Savings in Retrofitted Buildings: An examination of nearly 19,000 affordable housing units in New York City found that energy retrofits resulted in a 19% savings on fuel bills and a 10% savings on electricity..."This study proves that the assumption that you can't rely on savings when doing a retrofit isn't true." -- Living Cities; Steven Winter Associates - New York Times

The Empire State Building's Luster Returns: ...by any measure Anthony Malkin's ambitious and expensive gamble paid off...Enjoy it all. It is our building, and still the most famous office tower in the world. It is New York. By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Minoru Yamasaki; Shreve, Lamb & Harmon; Beyer Blinder Belle; EverGreene Architectural Arts; Rambusch Studios - Wall Street Journal

Q&A: Michael Pawlyn: Lessons of design learned from nature: ...he is passionate about biomimicry...What species in nature are you most in awe of and why? "Camel's nostrils are miracles of heat exchange and water recovery engineering." -- Grimshaw; Exploration Architecture [images] - The Economist (UK)

Does Anyone Own the Rights to Shipping Container Designs? ...in Christchurch, New Zealand...the City Mall Re:START project is now housing 27 retailers...residents have been ecstatic...Less thrilled are the developers in England...Boxpark Shoreditch is being touted as "the world's first pop-up mall"...controversy raises questions about just how far intellectual property rights can go. By Nate Berg - The Atlantic Cities

Village Health Works in Burundi: The design of the 20 bed Staff Residence in Kigutu...merges architecture, landscape and sustainability...a romance between east African elemental aesthetics and inventive off-the grid sustainability. -- Louise Braverman Architect [images] - Domus

Cranbrook Art Museum addition masterfully connects to Saarinen's modern masterpiece: ...when contemporary architects took on the job of expanding and renovating the museum, they felt the ghost of Saarinen...looking over their shoulder...result is a perfect fit for Cranbrook...the master himself would have admired. By John Gallagher -- Eiel Saarinen (1942); SmithGroup [slide show] - Detroit Free Press

Mariinsky Theater Complex to Cost \$629M: ...in 2007 Diamond and Schmitt Architects...chosen to rework the [Dominique Perrault] plans, and in 2009 they began construction incorporating the features already in place... [images] - St. Petersburg Times (Russia)

How to tear down anything in three simple steps: ...New Orleans City Council did a curious and terrible thing. It voted to...allow the demolition of a historic St. Charles Avenue mansion...one would think that razing a mansion designed by a big-name architect would be nigh impossible. Alas, you would be wrong. -- Emile Weil; Ken Tate Architect [image] - Uptown Messenger (New Orleans)

[Architecture's Internship Requirement Needs a Redesign: ...the Intern Development Program \(IDP\) is more an exercise in arithmetic than experience...For decades, the program...has evaded critical review...Aspiring architects are effectively given the option of being tutored...for years on end or leaving the profession. There is little space in between. By John Cary- Design Observer](#)

[CTBUH 10th Annual Awards, 2011: KfW Westarkade \(Frankfurt, Germany\) by Sauerbruch Hutton architects the 2011 Overall "Best Tall Building Worldwide"...Adrian Smith/Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Akira Wada; Ron Klemencic/Magnusson Klemencic Associates; Brett Taylor/Bornhorst & Ward/ John Zils of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Sauerbruch Hutton; Gehry Partners; Wilkinson Eyre; Foster + Partners \[links to images, info\]- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat \(CTBUH\)](#)

[2011: Why Tall? 1st Annual CTBUH International Student Design Competition Results \[images, info\]- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat \(CTBUH\)](#)

[Dyson Award Winner: A Gadget Draws Water From Air, Inspired By A Beetle: An example of biomimicry, Edward Linnacre's Airdrop harvests moisture from "dry" air to water crops in arid regions. \[images, links\]- Fast Company](#)

[Call for entries: 13th annual Residential Architect design awards; registration deadline: December 5; submissions due December 21 - Residential Architect](#)



[Preston Scott Cohen: Herta & Paul Amir Building, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel](#)

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